

TECHNICAL NOTES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WYOMING

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Biology No. 36

April 1993

Subject: FOOD AND COVER VALUES OF SELECTED
PLANT MATERIALS FOR WILDLIFE *

This technical note is for use in assisting land owners interested in improving habitat for wildlife. This includes those who wish to devote land specifically for wildlife, as well as those who are unable or unwilling to devote land specifically to wildlife habitat.

With the USDA programs and other programs that are available, there are opportunities for using plant materials that can have a beneficial impact on wildlife populations. Although the primary purpose of a planting may be to establish pasture, hayland, rangeland, trees, windbreaks, etc., opportunities exist where the addition or substitution of a plant species could enhance the area for wildlife habitat.

Several examples of this may be adding legumes with introduced grasses, adding forb species to rangeland mixes, using preferred wildlife shrubs and trees in windbreak plantings, and to avoid planting monocultures on pastureland and hayland.

I. Planning Considerations

- A. Consult with the land owner in considering the use of plant materials for wildlife enhancement.
- B. Habitat must supply the three basic needs required to sustain life: food, cover, and water. In most of the areas occupied by upland game birds, food and water are typically adequate, with cover, especially undisturbed nesting cover, lacking. Food plots may have to be considered if this basic element is lacking; food plots usually require annual replacement.
- C. Follow guidelines under the appropriate practice Standard and Specification, such as Range Seeding, Pasture & Hayland Planting, Critical Area Planting, Field Windbreak Planting, Wildlife Upland Habitat Management, etc.

(MORE)

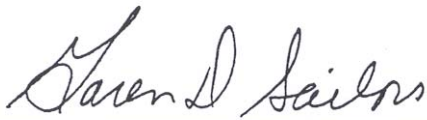
* Taken from:

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- D. Follow appropriate guidelines as to plant suitability to the Major Land Resources Area and soil type.
 - E. Use the recommended certified named varieties when seed or planting stock is available.
- II. The following table rates certain plant materials as to their value for selected wildlife species or groups. Listed plant species are those that are commonly available and are on other lists developed by the SCS. Unlisted plants may have wildlife values and a determination of these values will be made on request.



State Resource Conservationist

FOOD AND COVER VALUES OF SELECTED PLANT MATERIALS FOR WILDLIFE

Animals Species and Cover (C) and Food (F) Values																
	Elk		Mule Deer		Antelope		Upland Game Birds		Waterfowl		Small Non-Game Birds		Small Mammals			
Plant Species 1/	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F		
<u>GRASSES</u>																
Fairway wheatgrass <u>Agropyron cristatum</u>	U2/	D	U		D	U	D		U	D	U	D	U	D	U	
Thickspike wheatgrass* <u>Agropyron dasystachyum</u>	U	P	U		D	U	D		U	D	U	D	D	D	D	
Streambank wheatgrass* <u>Agropyron dasystachyum</u> <u>var. riparium</u>	U	D	U		D	U	D	P	U	P	D	D	D	D	D	
Crested wheatgrass <u>Agropyron desertorum</u>	U	D	U		D	U		U	D		U	D	D	D	D	
Tall wheatgrass <u>Agropyron elongatum</u>	D	D	P		D	D		U	P	U	P	U	P	U	P	U
Intermediate wheatgrass <u>Agropyron intermedium</u>	U	P	D		D	D		D	P	U	D	U	P	U	P	D
Pubescent wheatgrass <u>Agropyron intermedium</u> <u>var. trichophorum</u>	U	D	D		U	D		D	U	D	D	P	D	P	D	D
Scribner wheatgrass* <u>Agropyron scribneri</u>	U	D	U		D	U		D	U	U	U	D	D	U	D	D
Western wheatgrass* <u>Agropyron smithii</u>	U	D	U		D	U		D	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	P
Blue bunch wheatgrass* <u>Agropyron spicatum</u>	U	P	U		D	U		D	D	U	D	U	D	D	D	D

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Plant Species 1/	Elk		Mule Deer		Antelope		Upland Game Birds		Waterfowl		Small Non-Game Birds		Small Mammals	
	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F
<u>GRASSES</u>														
Beardless wheatgrass* <u>Agropyron Spicatum</u> <u>Var. inerme</u>	U	P	U	D	U	D	D	F	D	U	D	P	D	P
Slender wheatgrass* <u>Agropyron trachycaulum</u>	U	P	U	D	U	U	D	U	D	U	D	D	P	D
Big bluestem* <u>Andropogon gerardi</u>	D	P	D	D	D	U	P	U	D	U	D	D	D	D
Sand bluestem* <u>Andropogon gerardi</u> <u>var. paucipilus</u>	D	P	D	D	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	D	D	D
Yellow bluestem <u>Bothriochloa ischaemum</u>	U	U	D	U	U	U	D	U	D	U	P	U	P	D
Sideoats grama* <u>Boutelous curtispindula</u>	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	D	U	D
Blue grama <u>Boutelous gracilus</u>	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	D	U	D
Meadow brome <u>Bromus biebersteinii</u> 3/	U	P	D	P	U	D	D	U	D	U	D	D	P	P
Mountain brome <u>Bromus carinatus</u>	U	P	U	D	U	U	D	U	U	U	D	D	D	D
Smooth brome <u>Bromus inermis</u>	U	P	D	D	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	D	P	P

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	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F
<u>GRASSES</u>														
Buffalograss* <u>Buchloe dactyloides</u>	U	P	U	D	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	D	D	D
Prairie sandreed* <u>Calamovilfa longifolia</u>	D	P	P	U	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	U
Orchardgrass <u>Dactylis glomerata</u>	U	P	U	P	U	D	D	U	D	U	D	D	D	P
Basin Wildrye* <u>Elymus cinereus</u>	D	D	P	D	U	U	P	U	D	U	D	D	D	D
Russian wildrye <u>Elymus junceus</u>	U	P	U	D	U	D	P	U	U	U	D	P	D	P
Sand lovegrass* <u>Eragrostis trichodes</u>	U	P	U	D	U	D	D	U	D	U	D	P	D	D
Tall fescue <u>Festuca arundinacea</u>	U	D	U	U	U	U	P	U	D	P	P	P	P	P
Hard fecue <u>Festuce ovina</u> <u>Var. ouriuscula</u>	U	P	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	D	D	D
Galleta* <u>Hilarie iamesii</u>	U	D	U	D	U	D	U	U	U	U	D	D	D	D
Switchgrass* <u>Panicum vircatum</u>	D	P	D	D	U	U	P	D	D	D	P	P	D	D

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	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F
<u>GRASSES</u>														
Reed canarygrass* <u>Phalaris arundinacea</u>	D	P	D	D	D	D	P	U	P	U	P	P	P	D
Timothy <u>Phieum pratense</u>	U	D	D	D	U	U	D	U	P	U	D	D	D	D
Big bluegrass* <u>Poa ampla</u>	U	P	U	P	U	P	D	U	D	U	D	P	P	P
Little bluestem* <u>Schizachyrium scoparium</u>	U	D	D	D	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	D	P	D
Yellow indiagrass* <u>Sorghastrum nutans</u>	P	P	P	D	D	D	P	U	D	U	P	D	D	D
Alkali sacaton* <u>Sporobolus cryptandrus</u>	U	D	U	D	U	U	D	U	U	U	D	P	D	P
Green needlegrass* <u>Stipa viridule</u>	U	P	D	D	D	U	D	U	U	U	P	D	D	D
<u>FORBS & LEGUMES</u>														
Louisiana sagewort* <u>Artemisia ludoviciana</u>	U	D	U	D	U	D	D	D	D	U	D	D	D	D
Cicer milkvetch <u>Astragalus cicer</u>	U	P	U	P	U	D	D	D	U	U	P	P	P	P
Purple prairie clover* <u>Dalea purpurea</u>	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U

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	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F
<u>FORBS & LEGUMES</u>														
Maximillian sunflower* <u>Helianthus maximillianii</u>	U	D	U	D	U	D	D	P	U	U	D	P	U	P
Stiff sunflower* <u>Helianthus rigidus</u>	U	D	D	P	D	P	D	P	U	U	D	P	U	P
Prostrate kochia <u>Kochia Prostrata</u>	U	D	D	D	U	P	P	D	U	U	P	D	P	P
Lewis flax* <u>Linum lewisii</u>	U	D	U	D	U	D	D	D	D	U	D	D	D	D
Alfalfa <u>Medicago sativa</u>	U	P	D	P	D	P	D	D	D	D	P	P	P	P
Creeping alfalfa <u>Medicago falcata</u>	U	P	U	P	U	P	D	D	D	D	P	P	P	P
White sweetclover <u>Melilotus alba</u>	U	D	P	D	D	D	P	D	P	D	P	P	P	D
Yellow sweetclover <u>Melilotus officinalis</u>	U	D	P	D	D	D	P	D	P	D	P	P	P	P
Palmer penstemon* <u>Penstemon palmerii</u>	U	D	U	D	U	D	D	D	U	U	D	P	P	P
Rocky Mountain penstemon* <u>Penstemon strictus</u>	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	D	U	U	U	D	D	D

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	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F
<u>FORBS & LEGUMES</u>														
Upright prairie coneflower* <u>Ratibida columifera</u>	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	D	U	U	U	D	D	D
Small burnett <u>Sanguisorba minor</u>	U	P	U	P	U	P	D	D	D	D	D	P	D	P
Strawberry clover <u>Trifolium fragiferum</u>	U	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	D	D	D	D
Alsike cover <u>Trifolium hybridum</u>	U	P	U	P	U	P	U	D	U	U	D	D	D	P
Red clover <u>Trifolium pratense</u>	U	P	U	D	U	P	D	D	U	U	P	D	P	P
Hairy vetch <u>Vicia villosa</u>	U	D	U	P	U	D	U	P	U	U	D	D	D	D
<u>TREES & SHRUBS</u>														
Fourwing saltbush* <u>Atriplex canescens</u>	D	P	D	P	D	P	D	D	-	-	D	P	D	P
Caragana <u>Caragana arborescens</u>	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	-	-	D	U	D	U
Common hackberry* <u>Celtis occidentalis</u>	D	D	D	U	U	U	U	U	-	-	D	D	P	D
True mountainmahogany* <u>Cercocarpus montanus</u>	D	P	P	P	D	U	D	D	-	-	P	D	P	P

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	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F
<u>TREES & SHRUBS</u>														
Rubber rabbitbrush* <u>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</u>	U	D	D	P	D	D	P	U	-	-	P	U	P	U
Bladdersenna <u>Colutes arborescens</u>	U	U	U	D	U	D	D	U	-	-	U	U	U	U
Cottoneaster <u>Cottoneaster acutifolia</u>	U	D	D	D	U	D	P	D	-	-	P	P	P	D
Fireberry hawthorn* <u>Crataegus douglasii</u>	D	U	P	D	D	D	P	D	-	-	P	P	P	P
Douglas hawthorn* <u>Crataegus douglasii</u>	D	U	D	U	U	U	P	D	-	-	P	P	P	P
Russian olive <u>Elaeagnus angustifolia</u>	D	U	P	D	D	U	P	D	-	-	P	P	P	D
Winterfat* <u>Eurotia lanata</u>	U	P	U	D	U	P	D	D	-	-	D	D	D	P
New Mexican forestiers* <u>Forestiera neomexicana</u>	U	U	D	U	U	U	D	D	-	-	P	P	P	U
Oneseed juniper* <u>Juniperus monosperma</u>	P	D	P	P	P	D	P	D	-	-	P	P	P	P
Rocky Mountain juniper* <u>Juniper scopulorum</u>	P	D	P	P	U	U	P	D	-	-	P	D	P	P
Eastern redcedar* <u>Juniperus virginiana</u>	P	D	P	D	U	U	P	D	-	-	P	D	P	P

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	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F
<u>TREES & SHRUBS</u>														
Bearberry honeysuckle* <u>Lonicera involucrata</u>	D	U	D	U	U	U	D	D	-	-	P	P	P	D
Colorado blue spruce* <u>Picea pungens</u>	P	U	P	U	U	U	P	U	-	-	P	P	P	P
Ponderosa pine* <u>Pinus ponderosa</u>	P	U	P	D	U	U	P	U	-	-	P	P	P	P
Cottonwood <u>Populus spo</u>	P	D	P	D	U	U	D	U	-	-	P	D	P	P
Shrubby cinquefoil <u>Potentilla fruticosa</u>	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	-	-	D	D	D	U
American plum <u>Prunus americana</u>	U	D	P	P	D	D	P	D	-	-	P	P	P	P
Bessy sand <u>Prunus pumila</u> <u>var. bessevi</u>	U	D	U	P	U	U	P	D	-	-	P	P	P	P
Common chokecherry* <u>Prunus virginiana</u>	D	D	P	D	U	D	P	D	-	-	P	P	P	P
Antelope bitterbrush* <u>Purshie tridentata</u>	U	P	D	P	D	P	D	D	-	-	D	D	D	D
Skunkbush sumac* <u>Rhus trilobata</u>	D	U	P	D	D	U	P	U	-	-	P	P	P	P

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	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F
<u>TREES & SHRUBS</u>														
Golden currant* <u>Ribes aureum</u>	U	D	D		D	U	U	D	D	-	-	P	P	D
Hansen hedgerose <u>Rose rugosa</u>	U	U	D		U	U	U	U	-	-	D	D	D	U
Golden willow <u>Salix alba</u> <u>Var vitellina 3/</u>	D	D	D		D	U	U	U	-	-	D	U	D	P
Lilac <u>Syringe vulgaris</u>	U	U	P		U	U	U	D	U	-	-	P	U	P

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WORK CITED

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